

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and the same are rejected. By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended to correct an informality. Accordingly, claims 1-20 remain in the application and are presented for review and further consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Otsuka et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,201,771. (Examiner's Action, pages 2 - 4). The Examiner states that Otsuka discloses every element of each of Applicant's rejected claims except that the computer in Otsuka is not disclosed to be a mobile computer. The Examiner also states that mobile computers are well known and that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the computer used in Otsuka could be mobile. The Examiner further states that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that various components of a device could be contained in an integral unit or divided into separate units assigned functions as dictated by design.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Otsuka fails to disclose an output apparatus accepting an electronic document from a separate mobile computer. Otsuka discloses that an electronic document is present on a mobile computer. The document is selected and copied (downloaded) to a disk. Since the document is already present on the computer of Otsuka, no step of accepting the electronic document is disclosed in Otsuka.

The Examiner suggests that Otsuka discloses this limitation at S2 in Figure 7A. S2 in Figure 7A recites, "selection of content to be downloaded." Otsuka elaborates on this portion of Figure 7A at col. 16, lines 24-25 where it is made clear that the user merely identifies on a touch screen which document the user desires to purchase. Otsuka goes on to explain that the purchased document is delivered to the user in the form of a disk, either supplied by the user or selected from one of the disks pre-installed with the document. It is clear

that "selection of content to be downloaded" is not equal in meaning to an output device accepting an electronic document from a computer.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 8, and 15, include wording that an output apparatus accepts an electronic document from a computer. Otsuka does not disclose this limitation.

Furthermore, Otsuka does not disclose that accepting an electronic document includes receiving a transmission including the electronic document. As the electronic document being copied to disk is already present on Otsuka's device, the device does not disclose any transmission of an electronic document.

The Examiner suggests that Otsuka discloses this limitation at S% [sic], Figure 7A, col.8, line 1+. Although it is unclear to which step, of the flowchart of Figure 7A, the Examiner is referring, none of them discloses receiving a transmission including an electronic document. Figure 7A merely discloses the process of Otsuka wherein content is selected, paid for, and copied (downloaded) to a disk.

Furthermore, col. 8 in its entirety does not disclose or suggest a transmission of the electronic document. Col. 8 of Otsuka discloses additional information, aside from the electronic document that is the content of Otsuka, that may be included on the disk if it is a personal medium. A personal medium being a medium belonging to the user prior to purchasing the content from the device of Otsuka. Nothing in Figure 7A or col. 8 or anywhere in the Otsuka disclose or suggests receiving a transmission including an electronic document.

In contrast, Applicant's dependent claims 4, 11, and 18, include wording that accepting an electronic document includes receiving a transmission including the electronic document.

Additionally, although Otsuka does disclose discovering payment information, Otsuka does not disclose responsive, to discovering the payment account information, activating an output apparatus to accept the electronic

document. Otsuka merely disclose that the payment account information is used to activate copying (downloading) the electronic document to a disk.

The Examiner suggests that Otsuka discloses this limitation in Figure 7A and states, "after the payment account information is received, the document is printed." Figure 7A merely discloses the process of Otsuka wherein content is selected, paid for, and copied (downloaded) to a disk. Otsuka does not disclose that the document is printed after payment account information is received. Otsuka merely discloses that a printer may be attached to the device of Otsuka. More significantly, neither printing the document nor downloading the document to a disk is an acceptance of the electronic document by the device of Otsuka. Rather downloading the document to a disk is merely copying the document from one storage medium to another and whereas, printing the document is merely outputting the document. Since neither of these is an acceptance of an electronic document, Otsuka nowhere discloses that discovering payment account information is a prerequisite to accepting an electronic document.

In contrast, Applicant's dependent claims 7, 14, and 20, include wording that responsive to discovering payment account information, the output apparatus is activated to accept the electronic document. Otsuka fails to disclose this limitation.

In view of Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15 being allowable over the cited art, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable and not anticipated or made obvious because they contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and further add structural and functional limitations which, in combination, are not disclosed by the cited art.

The foregoing arguments are believed to be a complete response to the most recent Examiner's Action.

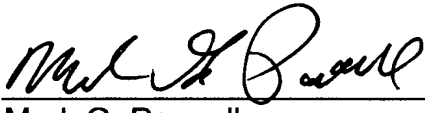
No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no claim, teaching, motivation, or suggestion in any of the cited art, alone or in combination, to produce what Applicant claims.

It is further submitted that the application, as amended, defines patentable subject matter and that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain which would preclude the prompt disposition of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
Corey J. Norris

By 
Mark G. Pannell
Reg. No. 40,761

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(719) 260-7900